

Analysis: local missions a terrific place to start

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

"All politics is local," former U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Tip O'Neil is reputed to have once said. Can the concept behind that statement be applied to missions?

Well, not exactly — but it is true that local missions efforts are as crucial to Kingdom work as any national or international program. Certainly we all understand that there are lost people within a block of where we attend church, and most decidedly within the neighborhood where we live.

It doesn't matter which church or what neighborhood. As it is in every country around the world, there are plenty of lost people in Mississippi doomed to eternal destruction if they don't hear about Jesus and accept him as their Lord and Savior.

As we sit in our pews each Sunday in the comfortable social, financial, and religious homogeneity with which we surround ourselves, it's all too easy to forget the spiritual needs of our fellow Mississippians — and there are deep spiritual needs right here in the buckle of the Bible Belt.

That's what the Season of Prayer for State Missions and the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering (MLSMO) are all about. While the importance of national and international mission offerings cannot be overemphasized, the state mission offering is equally important.

Jesus loves and yearns to reach the lost souls in the smallest Mississippi town, just as he does the lost souls in every Asian or African village. The meaning of The Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) cannot be twisted sufficiently to wring out the responsibility for attending to missions close to home.

MLSMO supports those close-to-home missions. The 2000 offering includes:

- \$300,000 for Camp Garaywa in Clinton. Camp Garaywa, the state Girls in Action campground, provides leadership training and retreat opportunities for girls and adults.

- Over 1,800 campers attended Camp Garaywa in 1999, and 100 life-changing decisions were made (28 decisions for missions service).

- \$300,000 for Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko. The state Royal Ambassador campground serves as a year-round

facility for retreats and camps, but focuses on the summer program for boys. Last year, 834 campers attended programs at Central Hills Retreat, and 123 attendees made professions of faith.

- \$60,000 for Pastoral Aid. Financial assistance for the pastor of a new church makes it possible for him to provide for his family while the church is getting started. In addition, when a church encounters a financial crisis, such assistance can make the difference in whether the church is able to keep the pastor.

- \$50,000 for Disaster Relief. Over 150 Mississippi Baptist volunteers have been trained and are ready to answer the call, whenever and wherever disaster strikes. Hot food, child care, cleanup and recovery, and assistance to churches and communities are but a few of the services provided by this highly-visible ministry. (See also the guest opinion, *A rope of hope*, on page two of this issue.)

- \$23,000 for Multi-Cultural Ministries. It's a fact that not all Mississippians are alike. Multi-cultural ministries supported by MLSMO include worship

services each Sunday in seven different languages and in a number of African-American, Chinese, Choctaw, and Hispanic churches.

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STAND
in the
GAP

es across the state. Materials and training for these varied ministries are also available.

- \$174,000 for New Church Starts. Among the top four allocations in the 2000 MLSMO, New Church Starts provides such services as double-wide mobile chapels, meeting facility rent assistance where necessary, and the purchase of land on which to build permanent worship facilities.

- \$20,000 for African-

American Collegiate Ministry. Baptist Student Unions (BSU) across Mississippi are assisted in providing a specialized outreach program for African-American college students. Several hundred African-American Christians in schools of higher education in Mississippi currently participate in BSU activities.

- \$50,000 for Criminal Justice Ministries. Inmates in 14 state prisons receive Bibles and discipleship/evangelism materials each week from Mississippi Baptist volunteers. Ministry materials for prison employees and their families are also provided. Volunteers are trained in the very special demands of this ministry.

- \$9,000 for International Collegiate Ministry. MLSMO gifts help place special workers at Mississippi State University in Starkville and the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg to reach out to more than 1,000 international students who will someday return to their home country having been given the opportunity to accept Christ as Lord and Savior.

- \$14,000 for Missions Awareness. The importance of missions and missions involve-

ment on the part of every Mississippi Baptist is stressed in Missions Awareness programs and materials.

- \$450,000 for Volunteer Missionary Assistance. The newest — and largest — allocation in the 2000 MLSMO, Volunteer Missionary Assistance is designed to help the record number of short-term missions volunteers signing up for service in Mississippi Baptist partnerships with Honduras, Ukraine, Maryland/Delaware, and Boston. This line item will be funded after other MLSMO priority needs have been met.

- \$20,000 for Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC). The purpose of this program, a ministry of both the national and Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), is to equip women in need with the skills necessary to spiritually and vocationally better themselves. There are currently six CWJC sites in Mississippi funded by MLSMO. (See also the article, *CWJC: making a difference one life at a time*, on back page of this special section.)

- \$15,000 for Collegiate Impact. The rich human resource of the Mississippi Baptist Collegiate Ministry will be tapped to involve hundreds of students in priority missions, especially Mississippi Baptist partnership missions projects.

- \$15,000 for International Crossroads House. Families of international students receive encouragement as well as help with language and living skills at this facility in Starkville. The Gospel is woven into friendship activities as international students adjust to life in American culture.

Whew! That's quite a list of good works, not to mention a record-setting \$1.5 million goal. Are Mississippi Baptists up to the challenge? Count on it. As they have proven time and again, Mississippi Baptists like being about the Lord's business in a big way.

Indeed, all missions may not be local — but in Mississippi it's certainly a terrific place to start.

For more information on the Season of Prayer for State Missions and MLSMO, contact the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: dsills@mbcb.org.

Margaret Lackey: passion for missions

Margaret McRae Lackey was born in Copiah County in about 1850, the fifth of nine children born to James and Elizabeth Lackey.

She grew up doing what most girls in Mississippi did in that era. She played games, went to school, and did her chores at home. She went on to attend Hillman College in Clinton, where she studied to be a teacher. She later taught for many years in Mississippi schools.

Lackey, who never married, had a deep love for missions, whose goal it is to spread the Gospel message of Jesus Christ to people who had never heard of the Savior. She used her teaching skills to help the children in her church learn to share her love of missions.

She also enjoyed writing poems and missions study materials so that other Christians could understand the importance of missions.

In 1912, Lackey became the first paid leader of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). Her passion for missions was obvious to all who met her.

She once wrote, "Sisters, we have done passing well this year, but, oh, the untouched multitude of women and children in Mississippi whose souls are crying silently yet know not for what they are crying."

Lackey retired in 1930 from her position as corresponding secretary of Mississippi WMU.

In 1903, Mississippi WMU began a special annual observance to emphasize the importance of missions. That special observance eventually grew into the Season of Prayer for State Missions.

In 1933, the offering taken during the Season of Prayer for State Missions was named in honor of the person who today remains one of Mississippi Baptists' outstanding leaders: the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

For more information on the 2000 Season of Prayer for State Missions and the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, contact Mississippi WMU at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: dsills@mbcb.org.



Lackey

THE MARGARET LACKEY STATE MISSION OFFERING



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●
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● COLLEGIATE IMPACT
\$15,000

*Jesus
lifted up*

Editor:

We are a small Hispanic Baptist mission blessed time and again through the gift of Spanish Bibles through the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. We were told these Bibles are paid for by the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering (MLSMO).

From the bottom of our hearts, we want to say thank you, thank you, and thank you again to all those who have supported this ministry through MLSMO. We cannot describe the joy and fulfillment that comes as we have the privilege to share God's Holy Word and the Truth and Light. We have been able to answer the call from those who have no Bibles but are hungry for the God's Word.

What a joy to see the faces of people who realize someone does care about them. We have a burning desire to share God's Word

Investing in a Better Tomorrow is a video designed to help churches promote the 2000 Season of Prayer for State Missions and the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering (MLSMO).

The video, available in VHS format, is one woman's nightmare of a world that too often is real, but doesn't have to be.

For more information or to order promotional materials for the Season of

or to order promotional materials for the Season of Prayer for State Missions and MLSMO, contact the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: dsills@mbcb.org.

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The Margaret Lackey State
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ize someone does care about them.
... We have a burning desire to share God's Word with others. We believe God has called us to this specific ministry and with the help of those who give so generously, we are able to do what God has called us to do. We are a small part of The Great Commission.

Thank you so much for your love in action. Please pray that through it all, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be lifted up.
The congregation of Living Water Baptist Mission, Hazlehurst
Alberto Rivera, pastor

*Thanks for
Bibles*

Editor:

I am involved in the Hispanic ministry in Hazlehurst. I asked Delores Hudson, former ministry assistant in the Missions Extension and Association Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, who I could thank for all the Spanish Bibles that have been supplied to us, and she suggested writing to The Baptist Record. I just want the people of Mississippi who support the Margaret Lackey Mission Offering to know how so very much we appreciate their help.

Bob Bozeman
Hazlehurst

Hispanic work growing fast in north Miss.

By Joe Young, pastor
Calvary Church, Parchman

For the second time this year, pastor Tino Trevino has had the privilege of dedicating a new mission building for a congregation he serves. Rarely does Hispanic work progress so quickly.

On January 2, the dedication service was held for the storefront La Primera Mision Bautista Panola (First Hispanic Baptist Mission of Panola County) in Batesville. The congregation began about a year ago when seven new believers — saved through the Hispanic ministry of Calvary Church, Parchman — moved to Batesville, where they were welcomed and baptized by Sardis Lake Church, Sardis.

Sardis Lake Church now sponsors the Hispanic mission in Batesville, along with Panola Association. Other new believers were soon baptized and the ministry currently includes three worship services each week, English language classes, and other Christian social ministries.

By this summer, Trevino had witnessed the dedication of another facility, this time at Tackett Catfish Farm near Sunflower. This work also grew from the Hispanic ministry of Calvary Church, Parchman, which is sponsoring the new mission.

The Sunflower mission is named Mision Nueva Vida y Esperanza (New Life and Hope Mission) for two reasons: The new Christians who are members came to America for a new life and hope in this world, and in Christ they found it in the eternal dimension also.

Taking a retired mobile chapel from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board that was originally purchased through the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering

for new church starts, construction teams from Calvary Church, Parchman, and First Church, Batesville, totally rebuilt the interior and exterior and equipped it for a unique kind of ministry.

The remodeled chapel has space for worship, Bible study, English language classes, and even an examining room for the doctor and dentist who come each month for a free immigrant medical/dental clinic.

A large closet for a clothing ministry is under construction, as well as more education space as the mission grows.

Large numbers of Hispanics have moved into north Mississippi, and the seeds of the Gospel have found fertile ground among them because of the efforts of Mississippi Baptists in Tallahatchie, Sunflower, and Panola counties who have traveled to Mexico on mission trips since 1993 with Calvary Church, Parchman.

These Mississippi Baptists have developed a love for people that spans ethnic differences and language barriers, and reaches out in the love of Christ.

Even though Hispanic work often moves slowly, Pastor Trevino feels singularly blessed to have seen such swift success in the Mississippi Delta — thanks in part to the committed support of a group of dedicated Mississippi Baptists.



NEW BELIEVER — Pastor Tino Trevino (right) of La Primera Mision Bautista Panola (First Hispanic Baptist Mission of Panola County) in Batesville and Mision Nueva Vida y Esperanza (New Life and Hope Mission) in Sunflower counsels a Hispanic woman who has just accepted Christ as her personal Lord and Savior. (BR special photo)

CWJC: making a difference one life at a time

By Linda Smith, missions min.
Calvary Church, Jackson

The journey into our personal Jerusalem began over two years ago as we asked our Father to show us where he wanted us to join him in ministry. Prayer walks led us down neighborhood streets around our church, where he opened our eyes to great needs.

As we saw hundreds of children in the streets, God wrote their faces on our hearts. We knew that reaching them was our initial assignment.

Bible Clubs are the avenue Jesus has used to help us share his love with the families of the West Park neighborhood in Jackson and build relationships with them. Visits to the homes of the children made us increasingly aware of another great need.

Many women in our community had not finished high school and were unable to find or keep jobs to provide for their families. The cycle of poverty and hopelessness seemed overwhelming.

How could we help break the cycle? Jesus led us to begin a Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) site at Calvary Church. CWJC is a ministry of the national and Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) designed to lift women out of poverty and hopelessness by training them spiritually and vocationally to better themselves.

Sandra Nash, a member of

First Church, Clinton, and a former president of Mississippi WMU, agreed to serve as site coordinator. Our first class finished in May with six graduates.

Vanessa, a new believer who is now attending Calvary Church, completed her GED fifteen years after dropping out of high school.

Brenda, another graduate who now works at Goodwill Industries in Jackson, said, "CWJC was a positive experience for me. I received training that employees need to be successful in the job market."

Brenda is encouraging more people to become involved in CWJC, including those who need help and those who are willing to give help.

The needs of people in Mississippi are great. CWJC is one way that Christians can make a powerful difference in the lives of those in need. A total of \$20,000 from this year's Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering (MLSMO) is dedicated to the work of the CWJC ministry around the state.

I urge you to give to MLSMO, pray for CWJC, and make a difference in your Jerusalem — one life at a time.

For more information on CWJC,

contact Tammy Anderson, Mississippi WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3323 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 323. E-mail: tanderson@mbcb.org.

Season of Prayer video available



A portrayal of Jesus and his concern for the world is depicted in a special video highlighting the Season of Prayer for State Missions and the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. The video and other emphasis materials are available from the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: dsills@mbcb.org.

MLSMO allocations	
Camp Calvary	\$300,000
Central Hills	\$300,000
Pastoral Aid	\$60,000
Disaster Relief	\$50,000
Multi-Cultural Ministries	\$23,000
New Church Starts	\$174,000
African American Collegiate Ministry	\$20,000
Criminal Justice Ministries	\$20,000
International Gate Ministry	\$9,000
Missions Awareness	\$14,000
Volunteer Missionary Assistance	\$450,000
Christian Women's Job Corps	\$20,000
Collegiate Impact	\$15,000
International Crossroads House	\$15,000
TOTAL GOAL	\$1,500,000

LifeWay has role in Venezuelan evangelism

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Church as it's supposed to be. That's how "Share Jesus Without Fear" author Bill Fay characterized the outpouring of God's spirit in an intensive six-day witnessing and discipleship seminar held earlier this month in Venezuela.

Approximately 300 people ranging in age from 10 to senior adults paid their expenses for the seminar followed by one to three weeks of witnessing throughout the nation. The annual multi-denominational Evangelistic March was sponsored by the Venezuela Baptist Convention and included participants from Mexico, Guatemala, and Chile. "Share Jesus Without Fear" has been adopted as the official evangelistic method for the march.

Fay, chief chaplain for the Colorado State Patrol who travels throughout the world challenging Christians to become active witnesses, was

part of a team from LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. He spoke in the evening worship services. Daytime sessions included conferences on "Share Jesus Without Fear" and "Life in the Spirit" led by LifeWay international consultants Luis Lopez and Estriberto Britton, along with other topics. Small groups took 30-minute slots for prayer, 24 hours a day.

"I saw church as it is supposed to be — prayer, confession in a spirit of love, praise, and spontaneous worship — all in good order," Fay said.

On the last night, Fay said he hadn't completed the invitation to commitment when he saw all 300 people moving toward the altar.

"I was looking every night for one person who looked tired or indifferent. Never once could I find one person," he added, noting that small group discussions and prayer rarely

ended before 2 a.m. and participants were up again by 6 a.m.

Lopez said, "We saw a great movement of God every night. We saw people commit themselves to evangelism as a lifestyle and we saw people confirm their calling to ministry."

In addition to gaining witnessing and discipleship skills for the Evangelistic March, Lopez said participants will return to their churches and train others.

"Leaders were able to see that LifeWay resources work

effectively in the Latin American context," he said. LifeWay resources currently are available from local distributors in 17 Latin American countries.

More than 600 professions of faith were registered through the 1999 march, Lopez said. Figures for this year aren't in yet.

"We knew God had already been working through the Evangelistic March," Lopez said. "We're just privileged to join him."

Homecomings

Holly Bluff, Holly Bluff: Sept. 10; 10:45 a.m.; covered dish dinner following services; 1:30 p.m. singing; Malcolm Massey, guest speaker.

Bigbee (Monroe): Sept. 17; 10:30 a.m.; lunch at noon; singing at 1:30 p.m. with Saved By Grace; Turman Carter,

morning speaker; Tommy Whaley, pastor.

Courtland (Panola): Oct. 1; Roy E. Southern will bring the morning message; covered dish meal at noon; afternoon concert by the Still Water Trio from Forrest City, Ark.; Charles Locke, pastor.

John Newport, SWBTS prof, dies at age 83

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — John P. Newport, distinguished professor emeritus of philosophy of religion at Southwestern Seminary (SWBTS), died Aug. 18 in Fort Worth, at the age of 83. He suffered a stroke in June and had been hospitalized ever since, spending much of the time in a coma.

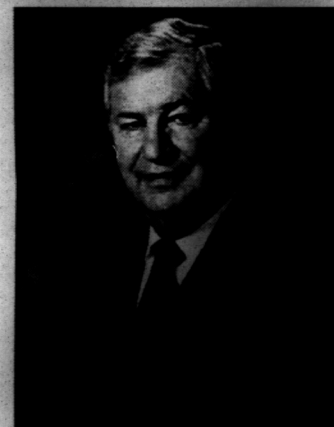
Born in Buffalo, Mo., Newport served at Southwestern from 1952-76 and then from 1979-90. In addition to his teaching duties, Newport also was vice president for academic affairs and provost. He continued to teach at Southwestern after retirement until 1999.

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3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

James S. Minnis Jr., minister, dies

James S. Minnis Jr., age 72, died of a stroke on Friday, Aug. 18 at Rankin Medical Center in Brandon.

A graduate of Millsaps College, Minnis did graduate study at Yale University and received his B.D. of Divinity from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Minnis helped establish a children's home for the Ute Indian tribe in Utah and in 1959 was appointed by the North American Mission Board (formerly The Home Mission Board) as a missionary to native Americans in New Mexico and Oklahoma.

Minnis served as pastor to churches in Nevada, Utah, Oregon, and Mississippi. Many years of his ministry were dedicated to mission start-ups, and Bible studies at isolated ranches and truck stops in the West.

Minnis and his wife Edith served as houseparents at The Baptist Children's Village. At the time of his death, Minnis was serving as pastor of Southern Hills Church, Jackson.

Minnis is survived by his wife; son, James David Minnis of Tupelo; daughter, Margaret Elaine King of Fannin; sisters, Elaine Moak of Baker, La., and Helen Prentice of Jackson; and four grandchildren.



Minnis

Calvary Church, Corinth, recognized Hattie Leatherwood on Aug. 13 for 49 years of perfect Sunday School attendance.



Leatherwood

Louie V. Godwin (left) was honored for his

work as church clerk at Central Church, Meridian. The presentation was made Aug. 20 in the morning worship service. He recently resigned that position after 65 years of service. Godwin is pictured receiving a plaque from Danny Chisholm, pastor of Central Church.

Dwayne Parker, minister of youth and education at First Church, Flora, was

ordained to the ministry on July 9. Pictured (from left) are Dan West, who brought the charge to the candidate, Parker, and Rickey Blythe, pastor.



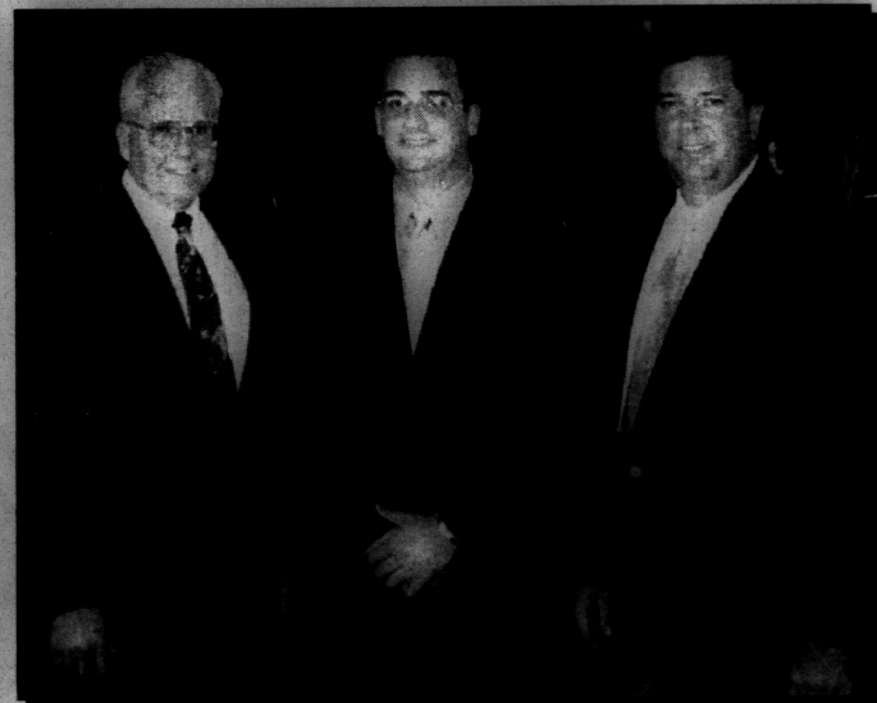
Godwin and Chisholm

Couple receives family blessing – times four



When Herman and Kathy Beard, members of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, entered Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's labor and delivery room on June 12, they came out with an instant family. That morning, she gave birth to four boys, James Gregory Beard, Jacob Conner Beard, Andrew Ray Beard, and Clark Thomas Beard. All the boys, who weighed between two pounds, 12 ounces and four pounds, 15 ounces, are doing well after a short stay in Baptist's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Pictured are Andrew Ray, James Gregory, Clark Thomas, and Jacob Conner Beard with their parents, Herman and Kathy Beard. (Photo by Greg Campbell)



West, Parker, and Blythe

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

The Office of Continuing Education at Mississippi College will host the Capital Area Student Council Workshop on Oct. 25 (Jr. High) and Oct. 26 (High School) from 9 a.m.-noon. For additional information call (601) 925-3265.

The United States Water Fitness Association has

awarded Mississippi College's Aquatic Program its number one ranking in the U.S. among all college programs. The July/August 2000 issue of National Aquatics Newsletter ranks all aquatic programs in the U.S. encompassing colleges and universities as well as all hospital and recreational facilities.

REVIVAL DATES

Crossroads, Decatur: Sept. 11-14; services at 7 p.m.; Farris Smith, director of missions, Simpson Association, speaker; James Lang, Decatur, music; Pat Nations, pastor.

Emmanuel, Laurel: Sept. 10-13; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Heuston Adkins, evangelist; Euel Nelson, music; Bill Riley, pastor.

Wayside Church, Scobey: Sept. 13-17; 7 p.m.; Hoy Leach, Pleasant Hill, La., evangelist; Marty Evans Jr., Enid, music; Jerry Dale Patterson, pastor.

Courtland (Panola): Sept. 17-22; services at 7 p.m.; Tracy Quillian, Endville, evangelist; Andy Russell, Pontotoc, music; Charles Locke, pastor.

First, Oloh, Sumrall: Sept. 10-13; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ralph Bethea, Atlanta, Ga., evangelist; Hiram Eaves, Moselle, music; Jipper Williford, pastor.

Macedonia, Louisville: Sept. 17-22; 7 p.m.; Charles

Smith, Duncan, evangelist; Steve and Becky Carver, Mathiston, music; Jack Manor Jr., pastor.

Euclatubba, Saitillo: Oct. 1-4; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Russell, evangelist; Andy Russell, worship leader; Scott Witcher, pastor.



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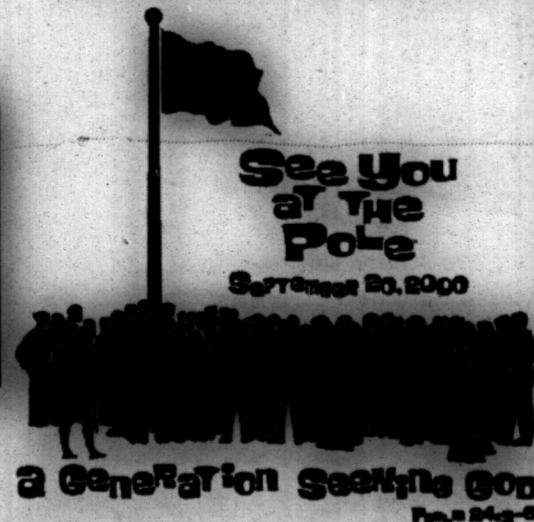
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STAY OUT OF COURTS

Editor:

I read with interest the letters to the editor in the July 27 issue, and was somewhat disturbed by the letter from Rhonda Farrior of Meridian concerning lawsuits against convention-owned hospitals because of their guidelines concerning the hiring of hospital chaplains.

I found myself wondering about Farrior's agenda and her commitment to Scripture. It would seem to me that she ought to carefully examine 1 Cor. 7:1-6 before she talks much about filing a lawsuit against one of our Baptist institutions. There may be much with which I might disagree with a brother, or even a group or institution, but Scripture commands us to keep it out of civil courts. If you can't settle it with the institution, perhaps you should assume that God might have a different direction for you in ministry.

Our beloved institutions and churches should always have the final say when it comes to filling positions. I do not want to question Farrior's Christianity, but I would say to her, "Please, do a lot of praying before you take fellow Christians to the world's courts."

Donald L. Cobb, pastor
First Church,
Livingston, Tenn.

THANKS FOR SUPPORT

Editor:

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to all of the churches in Tri-County Baptist Missions (Lawrence, Marion, and Walthall Associations), the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board personnel, friends, and family. Each of you stood by my wife Barbara, my daughter Michelle, and me during the most difficult time in our lives.

The Tri-County executive committee gave Barbara and me the freedom to be with our son as much as needed. This

was Christian love in action.

From January 16-July 6, we cared for our son and brother around the clock. We had to watch him slowly die. On July 6, God blessed him in a wonderful way — he carried him to his heavenly home.

We thank you for every expression of your love, prayers, gifts, visits, cards, food, and so forth. Through the many valleys of the last six months, we have learned to trust in our sovereign Lord more completely. God has used this experience to touch many lives, for which we are grateful.

We have grown in our faith and confidence in God. He is an awesome God.

Archie Herrin, Dir. of Missions
Lawrence/Marion/Walthall
Associations
Columbia

FLAG: PAST AND FUTURE

Editor:

Many emotional statements have been voiced or printed in the current discussion of the flag of Mississippi. I want to respond by asking several pertinent questions.

- Can we change the facts of history by changing the flag?

- Is there a single case where new industry has refused to

enter Mississippi because of the flag, or have these companies dealt with issues of substance, such as the availability of labor, land, and other factors that influence profit potential?

- How do those who expend energy in blaming the flag explain the presence of minorities — including African Americans — in places of leadership, responsibility, and business ownership, while they wallow in self pity and claim that a piece of cloth is the sole cause of their problems?

- Has the flag just flown over acts of evil or has it not also flown over the progress in correcting mistakes of the past?

- Is the attitude of people determined by personality or by a flag?

The flag needs to stay as a symbol of the struggles and solutions of the past, and as a reminder of past progress and future possibilities.

Ken Pickens
Tupelo

TCHULA CHURCH INVADED

Editor:

The Grace Community Church in Tchula was invaded July 24-29 by Bibles, nails, needles, coat hangers, and punch. Ten churches in Mississippi

and one church each from South Carolina and Arkansas sent 85 volunteers to do Vacation Bible School for about 75 children, resulting in six professions of faith.

These laborers, both black and white, continued a project to refurbish an eighty-year-old building to be used for worship and teaching. These men and women brought about four truckloads of clothes which were sorted, sized, and priced for sale in a thrift store in nearby Lexington. These missionaries orchestrated a health fair that screened, examined, vaccinated, and informed 80 persons about issues concerning the care of the body.

After 45 years of doing missions I am still amazed how God can take ordinary folk and accomplish the unordinary through touching lives by his grace and mercy.

Although this small town is one of the poorest in America, it gave so much to us. I'm sure God is smiling because of the smiles created that week. Although it took six months of planning, recruiting, and endless details to make the event happen, it was worth each minute of my effort to see bridges of hope and change occur.

Richard Brogan, consultant
Miss. Cooperative Baptist
Fellowship, Clinton.

Missionary couple appointed by IMB

RICHMOND, Va.—Stu and Liz Moseley Butler have joined the more than 4,900 Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) workers sharing Christ in 163 countries and among 336 ethnic people groups.

The Butlers were among 69 people appointed July 13 by the IMB during a service at LifeWay Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C.

The Butlers will evangelize in Minas Gerais, the third-largest city in Brazil.

The Butlers live in Anderson, S.C., and are members of New Prospect Church in Anderson.

Other churches influential to their spiritual growth include University Hills Church in Charlotte, N.C., and Byhalia First Church in Byhalia.

Butler was born in Charlotte. He received the bachelor of arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and the master of arts in intercultural studies degree from Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Butler served as a journeyman to Brazil from 1987 to 1989. The Journeyman Program is a two-year mission opportunity for single college graduates through the IMB. His team evangelized in several communities and worked on 25 chapel-

building projects.

Butler has continued his construction and evangelism work in Brazil with his wife by participating in four volunteer mission trips. He also works with The Gideons International.

Liz Butler was born in Lambert. She considers Anderson, S.C., her hometown.

She received the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College and the master of arts degree from the University of Georgia in Athens.

The Butlers have two children: Julianna Blythe, born in 1993, and Madeline Grace, born in 1996. The family will go to the IMB training center in Rockville, Va., for orientation in August before going to Brazil.



MISSIONARY NEWS

CITY-WIDE, INNER-CHURCH GARAGE SALE September 1 & 2

Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton

Proceeds go to support the salary for the recruiting ministry of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary. The recruiting ministry is at the heart of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists vision to reach Canada for Christ.

Your donations are needed in order to have enough merchandise to sell for two days. Please contact the following individuals to arrange for pick up or drop off of donations; to support the ministry in prayer; assist in picking up donations; or work during the garage sale.

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Baptist Church
Randy Bower: (601) 924-7082
Judy Williams: (601) 924-5283

Broadmoor Baptist Church
Sue Dockery: (601) 925-5333
Nancy Parker: (601) 957-7963

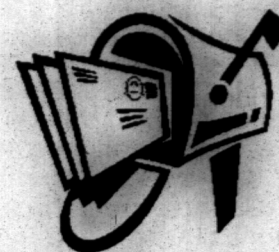
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of Clinton
Sandra Nash: (601) 924-9205
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

VBS RESULTS



Puckett Church, Rankin Association, held VBS on June 5-9 with an enrollment of 121 as a daily average attendance of 103. There were three professions of faith and a mission offering of \$246.91. Grant McElveen is pastor.

Staff changes

Parkway Church, Houston, has called **Ben Moore** as minister of youth. He previously served Parkway Church as summer youth director. Moore, a native of Tupelo, is currently attending Mississippi State University. Gregg Thomas is pastor.

Terry Road Church, Jackson, has called **Arthur Whitehead** as assistant pastor. Whitehead has previously served churches in Smith, Kemper, Rankin, and Metro associations, and in New Orleans, La. Joe Wiggins is pastor.

Tangipahoa Church, Summit, recently held Vacation Bible School with an average of 62 children in attendance. They collected \$488.70 for the Baptist Children's Village. David A. Millican is interim pastor.



Tangipahoa Church, Summit

Primera Panola Mission Bautista, located in Batesville, recently held its first Vacation Bible School aided by First Church, Batesville, June 15-17. Tino Trevino is the pastor of the Hispanic Mission.



Primera Panola Mission

Terry Road Church, Jackson, held Vacation Bible School on June 5-9. Twelve professions of faith were recorded and \$243.20 was raised for missions. Joe Wiggins is pastor. VBS director was Louise Shirley.



Terry Road Church, Jackson

Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville, recently held VBS. The average daily attendance was 188 with \$340.20 taken up in the offering. Barbara Ann Ladner was director. Shannon Marshall is pastor.



Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville



Crossroads Church, Decatur

Crossroads, Decatur held VBS on July 10-14. Average attendance each day was 52. James Lang was director. Pat Nations is pastor.

Unity, Georgetown held VBS on July 10-14. Average attendance was 104. High attendance was 111. Jerome McLendon is pastor.

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND YOUTH NEEDED for Ruleville Baptist Church. Send resume to Higdon Herrington, P.O. Box 187, Ruleville, MS 38771. Telephone: (662) 756-4309 or (662) 756-2873.

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED. Send resume to: Providence Baptist Church, c/o Dicky Taylor, 301 Fayette Davis Avenue, Cleveland, MS 38732.

BILOXI, MS., HAS OPENING for a bi-vocational pastor. Send resume to East Howard Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, 241 Howard Ave., Biloxi, MS 39530.

RAYMOND BAPTIST CHURCH, Raymond, Mississippi, is seeking an organist. Deadline for applications is September 8. For more information, contact Billy Causey at (601) 857-5501.

COLLEGE MINISTER NEEDED. Bi-vocational 25-30 hours/week. Please send resume to Morrison Heights Baptist Church, 201 Morrison Drive, Clinton, MS 39056 or fax to (601) 924-5622, Attn: Jennifer.

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VBS RESULTS



Cedar View Church, Olive Branch

Cedar View, Olive Branch, held VBS in June with an enrollment of 122 and two decisions made. Joyce Chrestman was the director.

Oakland Church, Walnut, recently held VBS. Karen Barnes, director. Lyndle Davis, interim pastor.

Oral, Hattiesburg, completed VBS with commencement June 25; attendance of 87 and collection for Baptist Children's Village was \$562; DeAnn Rawls, director; Jerry Jones, pastor.



Oakland Church, Walnut

Bethlehem Church, Forkville, held VBS on June 5-9. They averaged 40 students a day, including the youth, ranging from 3 to 18 years of age. The students were challenged to an offering goal of \$350 and collected \$1,001 for the Cooperative

Program for missions. The director was Zann Nutt and the pastor is Stephen Lanier.



First Church, Magnolia

First, Magnolia enrolled 140 in VBS. Average attendance was 121 and total offering of \$2,183.82 was designated for The Baptist Children's Village. Barry Ward is pastor.

Parkway, Houston enrolled 218 in VBS. Average attendance was 162. Four professions of faith were recorded. Lisa Thomas was director. Gregg Thomas is pastor.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Preparing to serve

Acts 1:4-14

By W. Wayne VanHorn

Luke, the beloved physician, wrote the Book of Acts. Luke became a traveling companion with the Apostle Paul and no doubt developed a great desire to use his gifts in service to the Lord.

Sometime after AD 60 (the date of Paul's Roman imprisonment recorded in Acts 28), Luke set out to write a history of Jesus and the early church. He wrote this history in two volumes. We call volume one the Gospel of Luke and volume two the Book of Acts.

According to Acts 1:1 Luke's

purpose in writing the Gospel was to tell of all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up into glory. Luke's purpose in writing Acts was to describe how the early church carried out the ministry of Jesus under the leadership and power of the Holy Spirit.

One of the simplest outlines for the Book of Acts that I have come across is as follows: Acts 1 The Lord Goes Up; Acts 2 The Spirit Comes Down; Acts 3-28 The Church Goes Out.

The focus of Acts 1 is on the fact that Jesus is alive and exalt-



VanHorn

ed. Luke wrote in Acts 1:3, "After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God" (NIV).

The "convincing proofs" were a series of post-resurrection appearances at which he talked, ate, drank, and taught. He did all the things that he had done before his death. He truly was alive again. Jesus' disciples had no doubts that he was alive when the forty days were ended. He spoke to them about the kingdom of God.

Promise (vv. 4-5). Preparation has a waiting time. Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This "gift" rep-

resents the total immersion of the believer in the Spirit of God. God's will becomes the believer's will. Through his Spirit Jesus would fulfill his promise to be with his disciples always.

Task (vv. 6-8). Because Jesus had triumphed over the grave, his disciples resurrected nationalistic concepts of messiah. They queried as to whether Israel's kingdom would be restored at this time. Jesus redirected their focus to think about God's plan and their task in achieving it. They were to become Spirit empowered witnesses to the whole world! Preparing to serve God includes understanding the task he has for us to do.

Obedience (1:9-11). The spectacle of the ascension left the disciples awe struck. God redirects their attention once again through two men in white. Jesus' promised return adds urgency to

the task of witnessing. The disciples needed to be obedient to the task set before them as they prepared to serve the Lord.

Prayer (1:12-14). Prayer is a vital part of preparation. The ascension of Jesus in Acts 1 is separated from the giving of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 by a period of ten days. The disciples passed the time in prayer, worship, and contemplation about the risen Lord. Their desire to fill the vacated position of Judas (1:15-26) indicates that they knew their real work was about to begin.

As we prepare to serve God into the twenty-first century we must rely on God's Spirit and we must focus on the task of witnessing. Obedience and prayer will enable us to stay on the right track for carrying out our mission of winning our world to Jesus.

VanHorn is pastor of First Church, Columbia.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

God is love. So what?

1 John 4:7-21

By Heather Cumberland

It is so hard to fathom how much God loves us. Sunday after Sunday most of us go to church and hear the pastor say, "God loves you." As children we learn the song "Jesus Loves Me." The Scripture for this lesson even says, very plainly, "God is love" (v. 8). What should this mean to us? Fortunately for us it means that since God's nature is love, he loves us whether we deserve it or not.

Our human understanding of love is very shallow. We look for love in other people, material possessions, or prestige. We

think that we can feel love if we win the approval of others. There are so many people in the world missing out on real love because they do not know God. Before we can reach out to them, however, we must understand God's love. Until we know God and his love, we ourselves are unable to truly love others.

When we look at God's display of love, we should be humbled. "By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent his only begotten son into the world so that we might live through him" (v. 9).



Cumberland

God did not send Jesus to this world only for those people who do exactly what he says to do in his Word. He did not send Jesus just for the "church-goer." He sent Jesus for all of us. He sent Jesus for the drug addict living under the bridge as well as for the evangelist on television.

Verse nine also tells us why God sent his Son. He did this so his love could be manifested, made obvious, in us. Is God's love obvious in your life?

Since God has done all of this for us, what does he ask us to do in return? He simply asks that we love one another (v. 11).

God does not tell us to love only those people with whom we can get along. When we apply this verse to our lives we must realize that he tells us to love all people. Love that

co-worker who has that most annoying habit. Love that family member who never treats you with respect. Love that person who pulls out in front of you on the highway. Love one another.

God gives this love to us graciously and freely, but it is our responsibility to accept it. I once heard a pastor say, "I can try my best to give you a gift. I can visit you every day and offer you this gift, but if you never take it then the gift is no good to you."

If we do not accept God's gift of his love through Jesus, then the gift has no impact on our lives and his love will not be manifested in our lives. If we do not allow God to control our lives, we will never know the full potential of his love in us.

If we choose to accept his love, we experience confidence in the day of judgement (v. 17).

We do not have to fear that day when God will bring judgement on this earth because we have the assurance that we will spend eternity with him.

Not only do we have confidence in the day of judgement, but we also have confidence in the present time. We can be confident that God will watch over us and not allow anyone or anything to overtake us. We are under his watchcare.

How wonderful is our Lord! He gives us his love so that we can love others.

Reach out to someone in love this week. If you need an incentive, just think of what God went through to show his love to you. He did more for us than we can ever do for any other human. The least we can do is share that love with others.

Cumberland is advertising coordinator for The Baptist Record.

Workshop prepping volunteers for Sydney

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Question one: Are you regularly involved in sports or recreation? Question two: Do you regularly watch sports on television? Question three: Do you have immediate family members who regularly watch or are actively involved in sporting events?

provides an ideal opportunity for seminary students to provide the gospel message for visitors to take home with them.

"The Olympics, like the World Cup in soccer, provides the perfect mission field for reaching people because people come from all over the world to one place," said Courtney Cash, vice president of International Sports Federation (ISF) of Arlington, Texas. ISF is a network of Christian athletes, coaches, and project coordinators who work with International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries to share the gospel.

"People live and die for their sports," Cash said, explaining how sports has become like one of the religions of the world. "When you combine national pride and the religion of sports with 2 million people, you have to be innovative in the way that you share the gospel with them. That is where sports comes in."

Cash and Endel Lee, NOBTS assistant professor of preaching and pastoral ministries in the College of Undergraduate Studies, explained the value of sports ministries to NOBTS students.

"If you're working on a ministry project, you usually spend 70% of your time getting people interested in what you are doing," Cash said. "But with sports, people are already interested."

Case in point: In a July trip to Kosovo,

an ISF mission team built a basketball court as the draw for ministry. "Before we actually finished building the court, children were already playing on it," Cash said. "Two hours later, 27 people were playing basketball."

They were later able to have Vacation Bible School activities with around 200 participants, he said, all because the sports provided "an open invitation" for the gospel to be shared.

The strategy has been very successful. In 1996, IMB volunteers hosted nine sports projects. Only three years later, they hosted 76 projects and in 2001, more than 100 projects will be held all over the world.

Last year alone, Cash said 25,000 people were exposed to the gospel through sports missions. "The number is really around 50,000 people because of the newspaper articles, word of mouth, and television and radio broadcasts that followed the events," Cash said.

In preparation for the Olympics ministry, NOBTS students were given background information on prior Southern Baptist Olympics ministries, different fan-based ministries (such as hospitality, servant-based evangelism) and sports ministries.

"Connecting with people is a key aspect of leading a person to Christ. Sports can link you to people who otherwise might not hear the gospel," said Lee, organizer of the NOBTS missions trip. "Some of the first seeds of Christianity were planted in my life during Royal Ambassadors meetings at a small country church. I went because they played football and baseball. They played these sports so that people like me would come and then have an opportunity to hear about Jesus."

NOBTS student Grant Stegall agreed.

"It is easy to talk to people once a bond is formed. Through sports a bond is already formed, so sharing your faith is made easier," he said.

AUSTRALIA



Answering yes to any one of these questions provides the premise for an Aug. 7-11 workshop on sports missions at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS). Seventeen students were taught how to conduct sports clinics and participate in fan-based and church-based ministries in preparation for their upcoming mission trip to Sydney, Australia, for the 2000 Olympics.

With an expected 2 million people coming to Sydney, many of whom are from unreached people groups, sports missions

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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IKM SP MRO DUSWSM
CP RSA MRHM WHSDON
KU XODKD PWCA MRO
NOHN NTOZZ SB ECK,
RO MRHM WHSDON KU
JRWSM PWCA MRO
NOHN DRHZZ HZDC
VKSJYOB ECKW ACWMHZ
ICNSOD IE RSD
DUSWSM MRHM NTOZ-
ZOMR SB ECK.

WCAHBD OSQRM:

OZOLOB

Clue: A = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews Eleven: Six.

Lay Witnesses planning fifth Olympics outreach

HURST, Texas (BP) — While millions of people will be watching the Olympics on television, scores of Southern Baptists will be among 230 Americans engaged in a massive September evangelistic outreach to Australia. Volunteer laymen and laywomen from more than 150 churches are participating in "Reach Out 2000 Sydney Australia" through Lay Witnesses for Christ International (LWCI).

In cooperation with Australia's Anglican, Baptist, and Wesleyan churches, LWCI volunteers will assist with hosting daily athlete rallies, sports clinics, and hospitality centers, as well as distributing tens of thousands of pieces of literature in 29 different languages. Through nightly "Eric Liddell Rallies," named after Great Britain's 1924 Olympian who later became a missionary to China, volunteers and athletes will share the gospel message through music, drama, and personal testimonies.

More than 400 Olympic athletes are expected to participate in the outreach, including:

- Carl Lewis, nine-time Olympic track gold medalist.
- Joe DeLoach, former 200-

meter Olympic world record holder.

- Chandra Cheeseborough, two-time Olympic track gold medalist.

- Richard Bucknor, two-time Olympian for the Jamaican track team.

- Madeline Manning Mims, four-time Olympian, track gold medalist and former world record holder.

"We are overwhelmed by the doors that God has opened to share the good news of Jesus Christ from the heart of Sydney," said Sam Mings, LWCI founder and president. "We are grateful to the churches in Australia and to the athletes from around the world for their involvement in a mission more valuable than gold. We also give thanks for the hundreds of Christians who are sacrificing their personal time and finances to share the unconditional love and everlasting hope of Christ."

"Reach Out 2000 Sydney Australia" follows similar successful Olympic evangelistic and ministry efforts by LWCI in Los Angeles in 1984, Seoul in 1988, Barcelona in 1992, and Atlanta in 1996.

Founded in 1981 by Mings, a former athlete and business-

man, and his wife, Sharon, Lay Witnesses for Christ International, based in Hurst, Texas, has volunteer satellite offices in 138 countries.

In addition to its athlete rallies, hospitality centers, and one-on-one evangelism during Olympic events, LWCI sponsors a "Right Track" drug and alcohol prevention program to help youth avoid the dangers of substance abuse and gangs; "Stars for Christ," an evangelical outreach through organized athletic teams; a speakers bureau; and the annual Christian Athlete of the Year Awards.

In the past two decades, LWCI workers have had the opportunity to lead more than 20,000 athletes from 140 nations to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Seeds for LWCI were planted in 1976 in the Mings' backyard, where they and their three children, Tammy, Teena and Bo, shared the gospel to hundreds of neighborhood youth.

Mings' ministry to athletes began in 1980, when he was asked to speak to a Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting at the University of Tennessee. More than 100 people prayed to

receive Jesus Christ as their Savior, including Willie Gault, who now serves on the LWCI board of directors. In 1981, at Gault's urging, Mings and his son, Bo, traveled to the NCAA Track & Field Championships in Baton Rouge, La., to minister to athletes. Many trusted in Christ, including Stanley Floyd, Carl Lewis, and Herschel Walker. Later that year, the ministry held its first "Three Hours with the Stars" in Houston.

The 23rd Olympiad in Los Angeles marked the first opportunity for LWCI to minister to athletes and spectators at the Olympics. At the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, LWCI's "Evening with the Olympians" was staged in the sanctuary of the world's largest church (Yoido Full Gospel). Media experts estimated that 200 million people worldwide saw portions of the testimonies from the meetings.

LWCI athletes have shared their testimonies with the world at more than 40 major sporting events, including the Olympics, U.S. Olympic trials, NCAA Championships, Pan American Games, Goodwill Games, and World Cup Championships.